

HSC exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations begin today with 11,41,374 examinees taking part from 8,104 educational institutions across the country.

This year, the number of examinees has risen by more than 1.28 lakh.

However, over 2.09 lakh students are not sitting for the exams as they did not fill in the forms. They had been registered in Class IX as regular students.

At a pre-examination press briefing at the secretariat yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said some 6,06,293 boys and 5,35,081 girls will appear in the HSC and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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FROM PAGE 16

equivalent examinations at 2,352 centres under 10 education boards.

The exams will also be held in five overseas centres in Doha, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Riyadh and Tripoli for 202 candidates.

"We have made all preparations to hold the examinations in a peaceful atmosphere," said the minister.

Of the 11,41,374 examinees, more than 9.24 lakh students will sit for the HSC exams under eight general education boards. Some 1.07 lakh students will appear in Alim tests under Madrasa Board and 1.04 lakh students will take Business Management exams under Technical Board.

Besides, 3,769 students of Diploma in Business Studies will also take the tests under the Dhaka Board, according to the data of Bangladesh Inter-Board Co-ordination Sub-Committee.

The HSC candidates will take Bangla First Paper on the first day while the madrasa students Quran Majid. The theoretical exams would end on June 5 with the practical exams beginning on June 7.

Of the total examinees, about 2.15 lakh are irregular, who either failed in

one or more subjects, while some 3,722 will take the improvement examinations, according to the data.

The minister said 25 papers will be held in the creative question method introduced at HSC level in 2012.

"We've given around five lakh teachers training on the method so that they do not face any problem," Nahid said.

Asked whether there has been a fall in the quality of education, the education minister said the students can correctly give their answers in the creative question method and therefore, they do well in the exams. "It's not true that the quality of education will decline if the pass rate increases."

"Now many students are taking part in the international competitions and doing well in the contests because we have been able to improve the quality of our education, at least quite a bit," he added.

Asked whether his as well as his officials' visits at the exam centres disturb the examinees, Nahid said, "We've also discussed the matter among ourselves. This time, a few people will visit the centres and leave in the quickest possible time so that the students do not feel disturbed."